



Margaret Kwan

March 29, 2024

Born in Shanghai, December 14, 1923. Died in Toronto, March 29, 2024. Loving daughter, sister, wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. Beloved by her sister Grace, daughters Louise (Kim), and Grace (Noel), grandson Graeme Wood (Louisa) and great-grandchildren, Zuleika and Hanzo.

Margaret was the fourth in a family of ten children. She graduated from Aurora College for Women in Shanghai in 1946. In 1949, she immigrated to Canada to attend the University of Toronto and to join her fiancé. Married in 1949 to T.C. Jack Kwan, she was tragically widowed in 1956 and left alone to raise two daughters.

She was rightfully proud of returning to university in her 40's and graduating as the first female landscape architect from the University of Toronto. Her career achievements and friendships with her colleagues were legendary and sources of great satisfaction. She was admired for her calligraphy, creativity, bravery and strength under physical adversity.

Margaret had many treasured friends from varied walks of life starting from her childhood and continuing into her senior years. She was often the oldest person in a group of much younger coworkers with whom she remained in touch after retirement.

She was an accomplished seamstress, knitter and weaver and could create and mend anything. She had a remarkable memory, and a great appetite for learning, using her iPad well into her 90's and avidly followed the travels and

writings of her grandson, an international journalist. She enjoyed eating and had a surprisingly impressive appetite for someone her size. One of her last words was "steak", a favourite food of hers.

At Margaret's request, there will be no funeral. A celebration of life will be planned for a later date. If preferred, donations in Margaret's name may be made to the charity of your choice.

Tribute Wall

DR

“ Numbers 6:24-26:heart:

Dearest Grace, Louise, and family,

I was thinking of you and your Mom today and came across this obituary. Thank you for sharing the beautiful memories of your Mother here. You have a beautiful family.

As a former student of Landscape Architecture (I had a career path change), it is amazing to learn that your Mom was the first woman to graduate from her field at UofT. This is a significant accomplishment that I will share with everyone I meet. Brava!

Dear Grace Sr., may you be surrounded with the love of family as you are reminded of your beloved sister. It is a blessing and privilege to be lovingly called sister.

May you all be comforted and encouraged today with the love, joy and laughter you shared that built a lifetime of wonderful memories. Be well and enjoy your blessings. ❤️

*Love,
D!ONNE Renée*

D!ONNE Renée - May 15, 2025 at 09:54 PM

JL

“ Margaret was an inspiration to us since we met on campus in the mid sixties. We were in awe not only of her passion for learning, love of music, excellence in all pursuits but also of her fortitude, endurance and ingenuity in overcoming the many challenges and unpredictabilities along the life journey.

Margaret was greatly admired by Jane (Janet's mother). They both grew up in the city of Shanghai, spoke the same Shanghai dialect and shared memories of the city they loved in the thirties and forties. Margaret enjoyed the special, typical Shanghai treats that Jane would make expertly during the major Chinese festivals.

We feel most fortunate to have met and known Margaret.

Janet and Patrick Li.



Janet and Patrick Li - April 29, 2024 at 05:13 PM

NC

“ Sincere sympathy to Louise and to Grace and their families from Norma Chou and Henry Wemekamp.



Norma Chou - April 22, 2024 at 08:31 PM

KY

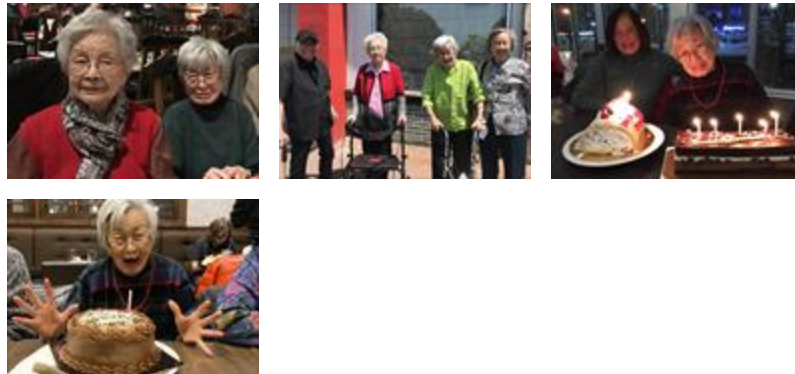
“ 1 file added to the album tribute wall album



ky - April 21, 2024 at 11:44 AM

KY

“ 4 files added to the album tribute wall album



kathy y - April 20, 2024 at 10:25 AM

CW

“ Grace, Your Mom was amazing. With heartfelt condolences from Carol.

Carol Wilcox - April 17, 2024 at 03:56 PM

GK

“ 1 file added to the album tribute wall album



GK - April 16, 2024 at 02:51 AM

GK

“ 4 files added to the album tribute wall album



GK - April 13, 2024 at 03:26 PM

GK

“ 2 files added to the album tribute wall album



GK - April 13, 2024 at 01:23 PM

GK

“ 4 files added to the album tribute wall album



GK - April 13, 2024 at 12:49 PM

GK

“ 1 file added to the album TRIBUTE WALL ALBUM



Grace Kwan - April 12, 2024 at 08:30 PM

GK

“ 1 file added to the album TRIBUTE WALL ALBUM



Grace Kwan - April 12, 2024 at 08:28 PM



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kathy y - April 12, 2024 at 08:26 PM

ZB

“ I first time met Margaret probably in 2004, when Grace took her to our apartment to deliver documents to us. Because my husband was also born in Shanghai, they immediately started chatting in their hometown dialect. My husband passed away in 2006 and I had a very difficult time adjusting to independent living. Margaret gave me a lot of help. She offered to be a translator many times when I communicated with Grace. She encouraged me to learn English when she saw me each time. I knew that she had been taking various courses in Ryerson University. This is a real role model for me.

When I saw her at her home a week before she was admitted to hospital, she was still so optimistic and lovely. She praised me from the bottom of her heart saying how big and beautiful the grapes and papaya I brought her were. She asked me to hold her hand and said holding this 100 year hands will bring you good luck. Her hands were soft and warm at that time. I believed she still could live a long time.

During this visit Grace took out some of Margaret's collected letters and asked me to read them. I realized for the first time what a great woman Margaret was. In her 100 years of life experience, she had been struggling alone for nearly 70 years. She raised two excellent daughters. Even in her later years, she still tried to help Grace. Once when I signed a legal document she was there, and she says can I help you with something, can I be a witness? It was unnecessary but she was serious.

Margaret, my role model, you lived optimistically and confidently and lived the way life should be. May you rest in peace in heaven, I will always remember your smile and kindness.

Zhaoming Bu - April 09, 2024 at 05:00 PM

MY

“ *MIN YUAN lit a candle in memory of Margaret Kwan*



MIN YUAN - April 07, 2024 at 04:31 PM

MC

“ *MIN CLAUDIA lit a candle in memory of Margaret Kwan*



MIN YUAN CLAUDIA - April 07, 2024 at 04:23 PM

LD

“ *Dear Grace and Louise. I am truly saddened to learn of your mother's passing. I knew her at the School of Architecture, when she was studying to be a landscape architect. I remember meeting you when I visited your apartment. I think you were both in high school then. Margaret was such a lovely woman - so kind and intelligent. The last time I saw her was around Heath Street. She and Grace walked into an open house that I was hosting. Please accept my heartfelt sympathy. Louise Dodd*

Louise Dodd - April 07, 2024 at 11:07 AM